

## Newsletter 17-20 April 2023 Strasbourg plenary session

### **Fit for 55: Parliament set to adopt key laws to reach 2030 climate target**

MEPs will vote on the reform of Emissions Trading System including for aviation and the maritime sector, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and a new Social Climate fund.

4

### **Parliament to adopt new law to stop EU sale of products causing deforestation**

MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Wednesday on a new law obliging companies to ensure products sold in the EU do not come from deforested land anywhere in the world.

6

### **MEPs to debate the EU's China policy**

On Tuesday, Parliament will discuss the European Union's response to the growing global challenges stemming from a more repressive and assertive China.

7

### **War crimes: Parliament to debate the ICC arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin**

The International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin will be debated by MEPs on Wednesday morning.

8

### **"This is Europe" debate with Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel**

On Wednesday at 10.30, Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel will discuss with MEPs his views on Europe's challenges and future.

9

### **Moldova: MEPs to consider the latest political turmoil**

Parliament will vote on a resolution assessing the challenges facing EU candidate country Moldova on Wednesday.

10

### **Asylum and migration proposals: MEPs to finalise stance for talks with Council**

Parliament is set to greenlight its negotiating mandates on key legislation to reform the EU asylum system and measures to facilitate legal migration. 11

---

**Crypto-assets: final vote on new rules for tracing transfers in the EU**  
MEPs are set to endorse the first EU rules to ensure the traceability of crypto-asset transfers, to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, and other crimes. 12

---

**Tighter rules and better enforcement to stop the flow of dirty money**  
MEPs are set to endorse changes to EU anti-money laundering legislation to help authorities crack down on the illicit flow of money and assets. 13

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**EU Budget 2024: Towards stability in highly turbulent times**  
MEPs will debate and vote on their priorities for next year's EU budget, kicking off the procedure for the final annual EU budget negotiation of this parliamentary term. 15

---

**Peru: Parliament to assess the ongoing political crisis**  
On Tuesday, MEPs will debate the situation in Peru, with the country's economy severely affected by months of violent protests. 16

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**Carbon removals: MEPs to assess their contribution to EU carbon neutrality**  
Following a debate on Monday, Parliament will vote on a resolution on Sustainable Carbon Cycles on Tuesday. 17

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**Energy storage: debate with the European Commission**  
On Tuesday, MEPs will debate with the Commission the energy situation in the EU and preparations to refill gas reserves ahead of next winter. 19

---

**Visa liberalisation with Kosovo: MEPs set to give green light**  
On Tuesday, plenary is set to approve the agreement on short-stay visa freedom with Kosovo. 20

---

**Discrimination: EP to call on Council to unblock draft law on equal treatment**  
In the draft resolution, MEPs call on EU governments to allow the legislative process that has been stuck for 15 years due to the need for unanimity to be completed. 21

---

**Resolutions on human rights and democracy**  
Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Wednesday afternoon, followed by votes on Thursday. 22

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**Other topics on the agenda**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/agenda/briefing/2023-04-17>

## Newsletter - 17-20 April 2023 - Strasbourg plenary session

### Further information

[Draft agenda](#)

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[Press conferences and other events](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre](#)

[EP Newshub](#)

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# Fit for 55: Parliament set to adopt key laws to reach 2030 climate target

**MEPs will vote on the reform of Emissions Trading System including for aviation and the maritime sector, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and a new Social Climate fund.**

Following a debate on Monday, Parliament will vote on Tuesday on the deals reached with EU countries in late 2022 on several key pieces of legislation that are part of the [“Fit for 55 in 2030 package”](#). This is the EU’s plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels in line with [the European Climate Law](#).

## **Emissions Trading System (ETS)**

The [deal on the reform of the Emissions Trading System \(ETS\)](#) increases the ambition for 2030, phases out free allowances to companies and creates a separate new ETS II for fuel for road transport and buildings that will put a price on emissions from these sectors by 2027.

Parliament will also vote on [including GHG emissions from the maritime sector in the ETS](#) and to [revise the ETS for aviation](#).

## **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**

According to the [agreement with EU countries](#), an EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will be set up to ensure that importers of goods covered by the EU ETS would have to pay any price difference between the price paid for carbon in the country of production and the price of carbon allowances in the EU ETS. This will incentivise non-EU countries to increase their climate ambition and ensure that EU and global climate efforts are not undermined by production being relocated from the EU to countries with less ambitious policies.

## **Social Climate Fund (SCF)**

[A separate deal with member states](#) sets up an EU Social Climate Fund to ensure that the climate transition will be fair and socially inclusive. Vulnerable households, micro-enterprises and transport users who are particularly affected by energy and transport poverty will benefit from the fund. When fully in place, it will be funded from auctioning ETS II allowances up to an amount of €65 billion, with an additional 25% covered by national resources (amounting to an estimated total of €86.7 billion).

*Procedure codes: 2021/0211A(COD), 2021/0211B(COD), 2021/0214(COD), 2021/0206(COD), 2021/0207(COD)*

*Debate: Monday 17 April 2023*

*Vote: Tuesday 18 April 2023*

*Press conference with the rapporteurs Peter Liese (EPP, DE), Esther de Lange (EPP, NL), David Casa (EPP, MT), Mohammed Chahim (S&D, NL): Tuesday 18 April, 14.00*

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreements*

## Further information

[Procedure file: Emissions Trading System \(ETS\)](#)

[Procedure file: Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#)

[Procedure file: Social Climate Fund](#)

[Procedure file: Revision of the EU Emissions Trading System for aviation](#)

[Procedure file: Maritime transport](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Parliament to adopt new law to stop EU sale of products causing deforestation

**MEPs will debate on Monday and vote on Wednesday on a new law obliging companies to ensure products sold in the EU do not come from deforested land anywhere in the world.**

The new regulation, already agreed with [EU member states](#), [helps fight climate change and biodiversity loss by preventing deforestation](#) related to EU consumption of products from cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm-oil, soya, wood, rubber, charcoal and printed paper. Before such products can be placed on the EU market, companies must verify and issue a so-called “due diligence” statement that the products have not led to deforestation and forest degradation anywhere in the world.

## Background

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) [estimates](#) that 420 million hectares of forest — an area larger than the EU — were lost to deforestation between 1990 and 2020. [EU consumption represents around 10% of global deforestation](#). Palm oil and soya account for more than [two-thirds](#) of this.

In October 2020, Parliament made use of its [prerogative in the Treaty](#) to ask the Commission to [come forward with legislation to halt EU-driven global deforestation](#).

*Procedure codes: 2021/0366(COD)*

*Debate: Monday 17 April 2023*

*Vote: Wednesday 19 April 2023*

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreement*

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EP press release: Deal on new law to ensure products causing deforestation are not sold in the EU \(06.12.2022\)](#)

[EP research: Towards deforestation-free commodities and products in the EU \(07.09.2022\)](#)

[EP research: the European Union and Forests](#)

[EP research: Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest: Deforestation, biodiversity and cooperation with the EU and international forums](#)

[Commission Fact Sheet on deforestation](#)

[Infoclip: Common products associated with deforestation and forest degradation](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# MEPs to debate the EU's China policy

**On Tuesday, Parliament will discuss the European Union's response to the growing global challenges stemming from a more repressive and assertive China.**

Against the backdrop of China's continued rise as a political and economic powerhouse on the world stage, the plenary debate is expected to zoom in on a broad range of issues linked to the EU's relationship with Beijing.

Earlier in 2023, Parliament reiterated its [request for a renewed, comprehensive and coherent EU-China strategy](#), which should take into account the challenges originating from China's rise as a global actor alongside its increasingly oppressive domestic policies and assertive foreign policy.

With China's aggressive military posturing against Taiwan, MEPs have also repeatedly condemned Beijing's actions and called for strengthened EU relations with Taipei. Parliament has on several occasions called out China over its persecution of, and crimes committed against, the Uyghurs and other minorities in the Xinjiang region.

**Debate:** *Tuesday 18 April*

**Procedure:** *Statement by the European Commission and the Council, without a resolution*

### Further information

[The European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China](#)  
[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# War crimes: Parliament to debate the ICC arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin

**The International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin will be debated by MEPs on Wednesday morning.**

[The arrest warrants](#) for President Putin and for Maria Lvova-Belova, Children's Rights Commissioner for the President of Russia, were issued on 17 March 2023. Both are suspected of the alleged war crimes of unlawfully deporting and transferring Ukrainian children from the occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.

During the plenary debate, MEPs are also expected to examine the issue of the safety of Ukrainian children closely, with varying reports estimating that thousands of them might have been abducted or unwillingly relocated to Russia following the start of Moscow's war of aggression against Ukraine.

*Debate: Wednesday 19 April*

*Procedure: Statement by the Council and Commission, without a resolution*

## **Further information**

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

## **“This is Europe” debate with Luxembourg’s Prime Minister Xavier Bettel**

**On Wednesday at 10.30, Prime Minister of Luxembourg Xavier Bettel will discuss with MEPs his views on Europe’s challenges and future.**

This will be the ninth “This is Europe” plenary debate, following [Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda](#) on 14 March 2023, and debates in 2022 with [Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas](#), [Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi](#), [Ireland’s Taoiseach Micheál Martin](#), [Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković](#), [Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis](#), [Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin](#) and [Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob](#).

Born in 1973, Xavier Bettel became Prime Minister in December 2013, and was re-appointed to the position five years later. He was first elected a member of the Luxembourgish Parliament in 1999 and between 2011 until the end of 2013 he was the mayor of the city of Luxembourg.

*Debate: Wednesday, 19 April*

### **Further information**

[Biography of Xavier Bettel](#)

[Free multimedia material on “This is Europe” debates](#)

# Moldova: MEPs to consider the latest political turmoil

## Parliament will vote on a resolution assessing the challenges facing EU candidate country Moldova on Wednesday.

The resolution follows on from a [plenary debate](#) on the same subject held in March 2023.

Earlier this year, Moldovan President Maia Sandu warned that Russia wants to stage a *coup d'état* in her country, including through sabotage and by stoking civil unrest, to stop the country's EU integration process.

As one of Europe's poorest countries, Moldova has suffered from political and economic upheaval due to Russia's invasion of its neighbour Ukraine, including street protests and the arrest of suspected plotters in the capital Chişinău. Moldova also has to cope with its separatist, pro-Russian breakaway state of Transnistria, where Russia maintains a military presence.

The country was granted EU candidate status, together with Ukraine, in June 2022.

*Debate: Tuesday 14 March*

*Vote: Wednesday 19 April*

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

### Further information

[The European Parliament's delegation for relations with Moldova](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Asylum and migration proposals: MEPs to finalise stance for talks with Council

**Parliament is set to greenlight its negotiating mandates on key legislation to reform the EU asylum system and measures to facilitate legal migration.**

At the end of March, the Civil Liberties Committee approved four legislative reports on new [screening procedures](#), rules on [asylum and migration management](#), and [crisis response](#). MEPs also backed changes to two proposals covering legal migration, regarding [work and residence permits](#) and [long term residents status for third country nationals](#).

As established in [Parliament's rules](#), the committee's decisions to open negotiations with EU member states to agree on the final form of each of these laws will be announced on Monday, at the beginning of the session. MEPs or a political group or groups making up at least 10% of the Parliament can request a vote on the decisions, which would then be held on Thursday. If there are no objections, MEPs may open talks with the Council, on those files for which the member states have already agreed on their own position.

*Procedure codes: 2020/0278 (COD), 2021/0046 (COD), 2020/0277 (COD), 2020/0279 (COD), 2022/0131 (COD) and 2022/0134 (COD)*

*Procedure: Ordinary legislative procedure, first reading*

## Further information

[Procedure file: Screening Regulation](#)

[Procedure file: ECRIS-TCN](#)

[Procedure file: Crisis and force majeure Regulation](#)

[Procedure file: Asylum and migration management](#)

[Procedure file: Single permit directive \(recast\)](#)

[Procedure file: Long-Term Residents Directive \(recast\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Crypto-assets: final vote on new rules for tracing transfers in the EU

**MEPs are set to endorse the first EU rules to ensure the traceability of crypto-asset transfers, to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing, and other crimes.**

The legislation, [provisionally agreed](#) by Parliament and Council negotiators in June 2022, aims to ensure that crypto transfers, as is the case with any other financial operation, can always be traced and suspicious transactions blocked. The so-called “travel rule”, already present in traditional finance, will in future cover transfers of crypto assets. This rule requires that information on the source of the asset and its beneficiary travels with the transaction and is stored on both sides of the transfer.

The rules would also cover transactions above €1000 from so-called un-hosted wallets (a crypto-asset wallet address of a private user) when they interact with hosted wallets managed by crypto-assets service providers.

## Uniform EU market rules for crypto-assets

Plenary is also expected to give its final green light to new common rules on the supervision, consumer protection and environmental safeguards of crypto-assets, including crypto-currencies. The rules –[agreed](#) informally with the Council in June 2022- include safeguards against market manipulation and financial crime. To reduce the high carbon footprint of crypto-currencies, significant service providers will have to disclose their energy consumption.

*Procedure Code: 2021/0241 (COD) and 2020/0265 (COD)*

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, 1st reading agreement*

*Debates: Wednesday, 19 April (markets in crypto assets, MiCA and crypto-asset transfers)*

*Vote: Thursday 20 April (markets in crypto assets, MiCA and crypto-asset transfers)*

## Further information

[Procedure file \(crypto-asset transfers\)](#)

[Procedure file \(MiCA\)](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur from ECON: Ernest Urtasun \(Greens/EFA, ES\)](#)

[Profile of co-rapporteur from LIBE: Assita Kanko \(ECR, BE\)](#)

[Profile of rapporteur: Stefan Berger \(EPP, DE\)](#)

[EP Briefing: Markets in crypto-assets \(MiCA\)](#)

# Tighter rules and better enforcement to stop the flow of dirty money

## MEPs are set to endorse changes to EU anti-money laundering legislation to help authorities crack down on the illicit flow of money and assets.

Plenary will adopt its negotiating mandate for a package of proposals reforming the EU's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) policy. The draft laws foresee new customer due diligence rules for businesses and give Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and other national authorities access to information on beneficial ownership. The new rules would also apply to goods such as yachts, planes and cars worth over €200 000 and goods stored in free zones. At the same time, transparency rules on crowdfunding platforms and anonymous instruments, such as crypto-assets, would be tightened to prevent abuses.

MEPs want to make it harder to hide illicit activities from the media and civil society. Journalists, civil society organisations, higher education institutions and other people with a legitimate interest would, under their proposal, have access to beneficial ownership registers. Given the manifest risk of misuse by criminals, MEPs want to ban all schemes granting EU citizenship rights in exchange for investment ("golden passports") and impose more stringent controls on residence-by-investment schemes ("golden visas").

### New EU authority for consistent rules enforcement

To ensure rules are enforced coherently across the EU, these draft reforms would create a European Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) with supervisory and investigative powers. For serious breaches of anti-money laundering rules, this new body could impose sanctions of up to €2 million, or 10% of the total annual turnover of a company.

The draft negotiating mandates on the three legislative texts adopted at committee level will be announced to plenary on Monday, at the opening of the session. [If there are no objections by Tuesday at midnight](#), talks with the Council on the final form of the legislation may start immediately.

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, first reading agreements*

## Further information

[Procedure file \(AML Regulation\)](#)  
[Procedure file \(AML Directive\)](#)  
[Procedure file \(AMLA Regulation\)](#)  
[Statements by the co-rapporteurs](#)  
[Video statements and other multimedia content](#)  
[Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs](#)  
[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)

# EU Budget 2024: Towards stability in highly turbulent times

**MEPs will debate and vote on their priorities for next year's EU budget, kicking off the procedure for the final annual EU budget negotiation of this parliamentary term.**

In their draft resolution, to be debated on Tuesday and voted on by plenary on Wednesday, Budget MEPs say they are “determined to ensure that the 2024 budget addresses people’s concerns and delivers on their needs and priorities by helping to restore stability and promote recovery and convergence and laying the foundations for a secure, prosperous, fair and sustainable Europe and ensuring that nobody is left behind.”

For that purpose, they propose focusing on energy independence, the green and digital transitions, youth, and tackling geopolitical challenges.

More information in the [recent press release](#) and in the [draft resolution](#).

## Background

The budget guidelines represent the first document that Parliament produces during the annual budget procedure. They set out the line that Parliament expects the Commission to take when drawing up its budget proposal for the following year. The Commission is expected to present the draft budget for 2024 in June.

*Debate: Tuesday, 18 April*

*Vote: Wednesday, 19 April*

*Procedure: Budgetary initiative*

*Procedure Code: [2022/2184\(BUI\)](#)*

## Further information

[Committee on Budgets](#)

[Committee on Budget's webpage on the 2024 budgetary procedure](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Fact Sheets on the European Union - The budgetary procedure](#)

[How is the EU budget prepared? \(EU Commission website\)](#)

## Peru: Parliament to assess the ongoing political crisis

**On Tuesday, MEPs will debate the situation in Peru, with the country's economy severely affected by months of violent protests.**

Peru descended into political chaos and deadly street clashes in December last year, following the removal of then-President Pedro Castillo and the assumption of power by his successor Dina Boluarte. Despite fresh elections being one of the protesters' key demands, none have so far been announced.

Dozens of people have been killed, and the unrest has also had a negative effect on the Peruvian economy, with damage inflicted on key sectors such as mining and tourism.

*Debate: Tuesday 18 April*

*Procedure: Statement by the European Commission, without a resolution*

### **Further information**

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Carbon removals: MEPs to assess their contribution to EU carbon neutrality

## Following a debate on Monday, Parliament will vote on a resolution on Sustainable Carbon Cycles on Tuesday.

In the draft text, MEPs consider to what extent and how removing carbon by using forests, agricultural practices and technological solutions can contribute to achieving climate neutrality in the EU by 2050.

Carbon farming, for example, is an opportunity for farmers to transform their business model. The draft resolution suggests that farmers should be offered incentives to voluntarily engage in a transition towards agro-ecological and sustainable agroforestry practices that also promote biodiversity.

The draft text also states that technologies such as Direct Air Capture, which are combined with permanent storage and are scientifically proven and environmentally safe, can contribute to achieving climate neutrality. However, carbon removals should complement and never replace legally binding reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

### Background

Removing carbon through forests, agriculture and technological solutions must play an increasing role in the EU becoming carbon neutral by 2050, as each single tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>eq emitted into the atmosphere will have to be neutralised by a tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> removed from the atmosphere. In December 2021, the Commission adopted the “[Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles](#)”, which sets out an action plan on how to develop sustainable solutions to increase carbon removals.

*Procedure codes: 2022/2053(INI)*

*Procedure: Own-initiative procedure*

*Debate: Monday 17 April 2023*

*Vote: Tuesday 18 April 2023*

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[EP press release: Carbon removals: More efforts needed to achieve carbon neutrality, say MEPs \(01.03.2023\)](#)

[Rapporteur Alexander Bernhuber \(EPP, Austria\)](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

# Energy storage: debate with the European Commission

**On Tuesday, MEPs will debate with the Commission the energy situation in the EU and preparations to refill gas reserves ahead of next winter.**

As Europe's heating season comes to a close following a winter in which blackouts were avoided thanks to consumption reduction measures, mandatory refilling of gas reserves and mild weather, MEPs will now hear from the Commission on the preparations to ensure that a sufficient supply of energy will be available throughout next winter.

## Background

With the Russian war against Ukraine, the collapse of gas deliveries to Europe from Russia, and the deterioration of the energy market, the EU introduced a series of emergency measures in the course of 2022: [strategic reserves](#) were filled urgently, the [REpowerEU](#) plan and [energy-saving measures](#) were put in place, as was a [temporary mechanism to limit excessive gas prices](#). Further measures are expected to be tabled or adopted in the coming weeks, such as a [reform of the European electricity market](#), as well as measures to [facilitate the deployment of renewable energy](#).

*Debate: Tuesday, 18 April*

*Procedure: Commission statement without resolution*

# Visa liberalisation with Kosovo: MEPs set to give green light

**On Tuesday, plenary is set to approve the agreement on short-stay visa freedom with Kosovo.**

Visa liberalisation between the EU and Kosovo would allow citizens of Kosovo to travel to the EU – and EU citizens to go to Kosovo - without a visa, for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. EP and Council negotiators [agreed on the measure](#) in December 2022.

Once endorsed by plenary, the act will be formally signed into law by the EP President and the Swedish Council presidency on Wednesday.

## Background

Kosovo is a potential candidate for EU accession that declared its independence in February 2008. Currently, its independence is not recognised by five EU member states (Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Slovakia and Spain). The European Parliament [has supported visa liberalisation with Kosovo](#) since 2016, after the Commission declared that Kosovo fulfils the criteria of its roadmap for visa liberalisation. Kosovo is currently the only part of the Western Balkans region that does not enjoy visa-free travel on short stays with the Schengen area.

The visa exemption would enter into force once the [European Travel Information and Authorisation System \(ETIAS\)](#) is in place, and in any case by 2024.

*Procedure Code: 2016/0139(COD)*

*Procedure: ordinary legislative procedure, second reading agreement*

*Vote: Tuesday 18 April*

*Press conference: TBC*

## Further information

[Procedure file](#)

[Profile of the rapporteur: Thijs REUTEN \(S&D, the Netherlands\)](#)

[Fact Sheets on the European Union: The Western Balkans](#)

[Multimedia material: EU-Kosovo](#)

[Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#)

# Discrimination: EP to call on Council to unblock draft law on equal treatment

**In the draft resolution, MEPs call on EU governments to allow the legislative process that has been stuck for 15 years due to the need for unanimity to be completed.**

Current EU rules to fight discrimination have been adopted in a fragmented manner, with some forms of discrimination still only covered in the workplace and the labour market.

Parliament is set to demand that Council unblocks the work on a new comprehensive anti-discrimination directive that would expand EU-level legal protection against discrimination across the board, including on grounds of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. Parliament [adopted its position](#) on the [Commission's proposal](#) in 2009, but the legislative procedure has been blocked due to the reticence of a few member states.

The member states are not properly implementing the EU anti-discrimination framework, highlights the draft text, which also points to issues with the implementation of relevant case law from the EU Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights.

MEPs want it to be approved before the 2024 European elections.

*Procedure Code: 2023/2582*

*Debate: 15 March 2023*

*Vote: Wednesday, 19 April*

*Procedure: non-legislative resolution*

## Further information

[Time to deal with structural and institutional racism in the EU, MEPs say \(10.11.2022\)](#)  
[Fundamental rights in the EU: long-standing problems exacerbated by COVID-19 \(15.09.2022\)](#)  
[Profile of the rapporteur: Alice KUHNKE \(Greens/EFA, SE\)](#)  
[2022 report of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency](#)  
[Procedure file](#)  
[Legislative train](#)  
[EP Think Tank publications on discrimination](#)  
[Free photos, video and audio material \(rule of law\)](#)

## Resolutions on human rights and democracy

**Parliament will hold urgent debates on the following human rights, democracy and rule of law topics on Wednesday afternoon, followed by votes on Thursday.**

- The crackdown on the right to education and education rights activists in Afghanistan, including the case of Matiullah Wesa;
- Repression in Russia, in particular the cases of Vladimir Kara-Murza and Aleksey Navalny;
- The risk of death penalty and execution of singer Yahaya Sharif Aminu for blasphemy in Nigeria.

*Debate: Wednesday 19 April*

*Vote: Thursday 20 April*

*Procedure: non-legislative resolutions*

### **Further information**

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

## Other topics on the agenda

### Other topics on the agenda

- Warsaw Ghetto, 80th anniversary of the Uprising, Statement President, Wednesday
- Institutional relations between the EU and the Council Europe, *Vincze, debate Mon, vote Tue*
- Adoption of the Cyber package proposals - Commission statement, Tuesday
- Machinery products, *Štefanec, vote Tue*
- The implementation of civilian CSDP and other EU civilian security assistance, *Alametsä Alviina, debate Mon, vote Tue*
- EU Rapid Deployment Capacity, EU Battlegroups and Article 44 TEU: the way forward, *López Javi, debate Tue, vote Wed*
- EU relations with Iraq –Statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Tuesday
- EU Global Health Strategy, Council and Commission statements , Wednesday
- Universal Decriminalization of Homosexuality, in light of recent developments in Uganda, Council and Commission statements Wednesday, vote Thursday
- Legacy of the European Year of Youth, Question Time Commission, Tuesday
- Council and Commission statements - Digital euro, Wednesday
- Council and Commission statements - Dieselgate: suspected wide-spread use of defeat devices in cars to reduce effectiveness of pollution control systems, Wednesday
- Safeguarding labour mobility and social rights of striking lorry drivers from third countries, Council and Commission statements, Tuesday
- Keeping people healthy, water drinkable and soil liveable: getting rid of forever pollutants and strengthening EU chemical legislation now, topical debate, Wednesday
- Commission statement - EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods, Thursday
- Commission statement - IPCC report on Climate Change: a call for urgent additional action, Thursday